

Agency 460

Columbia River Gorge Commission**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	8.5	691	671	1,362
Total Maintenance Level	8.5	790	700	1,490
Difference		99	29	128
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	14.3%	4.3%	9.4%
Performance Changes				
General Inflation		(2)	(2)	(4)
Citizen Services - Mediation		9	9	18
Mandatory Planning Services	2.3	143	143	286
Subtotal	2.3	150	150	300
Total Proposed Budget	10.8	940	850	1,790
Difference	2.3	249	179	428
Percent Change from Current Biennium	27.2%	36.0%	26.7%	31.4%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Implementation of the Management Plan and National Scenic Area Act	5.3	448	417	865
Policy Making and Hearing Citizen Appeals	3.3	323	284	607
Public Outreach and Technical Assistance to Counties	2.2	169	149	318
Total Proposed Budget	10.8	940	850	1,790

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Citizen Services - Mediation**

In the past decade, the Gorge Commission has significantly reduced the cost and delay to citizens and landowners by offering a means other than a formal hearing to resolve conflict. Due to recent budget reductions, the Commission cannot continue to purchase mediation services. Six alternative dispute resolution contracts are funded at a cost of \$3,000 each, resulting in an estimated savings of \$15,000 in legal costs and an increased quality of service to citizens. (General Fund-Private/Local)

Mandatory Planning Services

Due to recent budget reductions, the Columbia River Gorge Commission cannot perform all of the planning functions that are mandated by the National Scenic Area Act (ACT) and the Columbia River Compact (CRC). An additional 2.3 FTE staff will process two additional plan amendment review applications per year, update the economic development and other sections of the management plan, some of which have not been revised for up to twelve years, and complete other mandated planning requirements of the ACT. These planning activities directly support the economic vitality of the Columbia River Gorge by facilitating growth in a manner that is consistent with the ACT and CRC. (General Fund-Private/Local)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Implementation of the Management Plan and National Scenic Area Act

All counties of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area administer land use policies set forth by the Gorge Commission, with the exception of Klickitat County. (The Commission implements these policies for Klickitat County.) The Commission reviews county-approved plans for development to ensure consistency with the Scenic Area Act and Management Plan and disperses grant funding to Clark and Skamania counties to provide planning and permitting services required by the Management Plan. It also reviews federal monies dispensed by Oregon and Washington investment boards in the form of economic development loans and grants.

Policy Making and Hearing Citizen Appeals

The primary function of the agency is to set land use policies for counties with land in the National Scenic Area. The counties of the Gorge carry out these policies and issue land use decisions. Citizens have the option of appealing county decisions to the Commission, which acts as a quasi-judicial body by reviewing the facts of the case and rendering a final decision. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private Local)

Public Outreach and Technical Assistance to Counties

This activity increases public awareness of the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan, and provides assistance to counties in its implementation. The Commission is developing a Geographic Information Systems database for the Gorge, which will include a digitized map, parcel identification, and location of scenic, plant, animal and cultural resources. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private Local)